

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03915 032117Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 /050 W  
-----108080 041225Z /10

R 031957Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6407  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03915

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR  
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT CORRESPONDENCE

REF: MOSCOW 2568

1. FRG OFFICIALS HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT NOVIKOV PASSED A BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO SCHMIDT DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN. THEY TEND TO DOUBT THAT SUCH A MESSAGE EXISTS.
2. DURING A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SOVIET AFFAIRS (KUEHN) WE ASKED ABOUT RECENT VISIT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NOVIKOV. IN RESPONSE, KUEHN SAID NOVIKOV HAD LARGELY ADDRESSED MATTERS RELATING TO FORTHCOMING OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW. CONTINUING, KUEHN NOTED REPORT RECEIVED FROM FRG EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT NOVIKOV HAD TOLD GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD DELIVERED A BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO SCHMIDT. AT THE REQUEST OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, SENIOR CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS HAD LOOKED INTO THE MATTER (WITHOUT, APPARENTLY, DIRECTLY ASKING  
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PAGE 02 BONN 03915 032117Z

THE CHANCELLOR) AND DETERMINED THAT NO SUCH MESSAGE HAD COME TO SCHMIDT VIA CHANCELLERY CHANNELS. NOR HAD NOVIKOV MET WITH THE CHANCELLOR DURING HIS VISIT HERE.

3. WHILE NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT NOVIKOV HAD PASSED A LETTER TO SCHMIDT THROUGH SPD CHANNELS, CHANCELLERY AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT

THIS OCCURRED. THEY MAINTAIN THAT SCHMIDT WOULD HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY MADE KNOWN THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A MESSAGE TO HIS SENIOR STAFF. MOREOVER, THEY ASSERT THAT NOVIKOV, DESPITE HIS HIGH-RANKING POSITION, IS AN APPARATCHIK WHO WAS UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF CONVEYING A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV TO SCHMIDT.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS HAVE OFTEN PASSED MESSAGES TO SCHMIDT VIA PARTY CHANNELS AND IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE CHANCELLOR KEEPS SOME OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE FROM HIS SENIOR STAFFERS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, WE CAN OFFER NO ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS AT THIS TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014